

COMMUNITY PARKS REVITALIZATION ACT

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Community Parks Revitalization Act.

This bipartisan legislation would provide matching funds and a new loan program to assist our communities in developing and redeveloping parks and recreational facilities.

As a former mayor, I have seen firsthand the value that investing in parks brings to our communities. When we make investments in our parks, it leads to healthy, vibrant neighborhoods in which businesses want to invest and families want to live. Our parks and recreational centers are also instrumental in helping to achieve the important national goal of increasing exercise and in providing recreational opportunities for our youth and disabled or injured veterans.

The Community Parks Revitalization Act has the support of many national organizations, including the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Society of Landscape Architects, and it has strong bipartisan support in the 113th Congress.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in strengthening our community parks.

NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL REFORM

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, one of the best parts of my job is meeting with Montana students. These young people are the future leaders of our State, and it's exciting to hear about their ideas and aspirations for making their communities and our State a better place to live and to work.

As a father of four and personally, myself, as a product of Montana's public schools—in fact, from kindergarten in Bozeman all the way through college at Montana State University—I know that Montana's students have so much potential. Our oldest daughter, Annie, will be graduating from Montana State University this fall with a degree in elementary education. That's why it's critical that they have access to quality education and training that prepares them to pursue careers and goals they are passionate about.

We must work towards commonsense reforms that empower our schools and teachers to innovate and address our students' unique needs. No two students or schools are the same. More local and State input and less Federal bureaucracy will help provide our educators with the flexibility they need to help our kids learn. I am looking forward to our upcoming debate on how we can work to improve our education system.

EFFECTS OF SEQUESTER

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, this week, over 650,000 civilian employees of the Department of Defense are required to begin taking involuntary furlough days. Over 25,000 of these employees reside in San Diego. This represents about a 20 percent pay cut for the next 3 months for these public servants. This pay cut is in addition to the fact that Federal employees have not received their standard salary adjustments for the past 3 years.

These salary cuts have a very damaging effect on the employees and on their families, an effect which should be clear to all of us; but they also have disastrous secondary effects. I am worried particularly about the impact these cuts will have on the recruitment and retention of the civilian workforce. As one of my San Diego constituents in the Federal workforce said:

Furloughs send a very demoralizing and humiliating message to all Federal employees, one that suggests that we are not valued and that the work we do is not valued.

We must do better. We can start by appointing budget conferees immediately.

IN SUPPORT OF AUTHORITY FOR MANDATE DELAY ACT AND FAIRNESS FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, the House will vote today to delay the implementation of both the employer and the individual health insurance mandates dictated by ObamaCare. The administration announced by way of a blog post that it could not implement the employer mandate by its legal deadline despite repeated assurances that everything was okay.

It is completely unfair for the administration to grant an extension to businesses but not to individual tax-paying Americans. House Republicans are fighting for all Americans. There is still much work to be done. ObamaCare continues to be a drag on our economic recovery, leading to fewer choices and more expensive insurance premiums. I urge the support of these bills and the complete repeal of the President's health care law.

CANCER CARE

(Mr. LOEBSACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the benefits of cancer research and the importance of funding for the National Institutes of Health. In my home State of Iowa alone, 17,480 people will be diagnosed

with cancer this year and 6,420 will lose their battles with this disease. Like every State, Iowa receives essential funding from the NIH.

NIH funds lifesaving medical research that is leading to the development of new and better ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer and other diseases. The research takes place at thousands of universities, hospitals, cancer centers, and laboratories across the country, including at the University of Iowa's Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center. In addition to the obvious benefits of combating cancer and so many other diseases, NIH funding supports economic activity and jobs, something we often don't think about. In 2012, NIH funding supported 3,934 jobs in Iowa alone.

Funding for cancer research and the NIH, I believe, must be a top priority. I urge Congress to support this lifesaving research.

OBAMACARE PERMANENT DELAY

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. The administration proved what local employers have been telling me for months—ObamaCare is bad policy.

Even after 3 years of preparation, this law is far from ready for implementation and has proven to be unaffordable. Just today, we learned that we have already paid an additional \$1 billion in new taxes on the medical device tax alone. If there is a delay enacted for businesses, then there needs to be a Hoosier delay for hardworking taxpayers as well. After all, the American people are the building blocks for our companies. These individuals include parents, young people, single moms, veterans, and seasoned employees. Together, they form our Nation's workforce.

In our district in northern Indiana, I have heard from schools, restaurants, manufacturers, and small business owners who strongly oppose this mandate. At the very least, news of this delay is a relief, but the future is still clouded with uncertainty as long as this law exists. Hoosiers know that a 1-year delay of the employer mandate, and even of the individual mandate, is no more than a Band-Aid.

ObamaCare is a roadblock for American companies. According to small businesses in the Second District, this law is the number one job killer. That's why I ask for the President to permanently delay the health care law.

SEQUESTER

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, as the House prepares this week to vote for the 38th time to take patient protections away from working families